

## ***Deacons – Their Work and Qualifications***

**I Tim. 3:8-13**

### ➤ ***The Work of Deacons***

- The word (*diakonos*) from which “deacon” is translated in our English versions occurs about 30 times.
  - Meaning: servant, minister, one who executes the instructions of another.
  - Most of the time occurs in a general sense. (Matt. 20:26; 23:11).
  - It is used in I Tim. 3 and Phil. 1:1 in a specific sense denoting those who are specially appointed servants (men, who meet qualifications) in the local church to perform specific needed functions.
  - Acts 6:1-6

### ➤ ***The Qualifications of Deacons – I Tim. 3:8-13***

- **“Grave”** → reverent, dignified, worthy of respect.
  - Takes serious things seriously, and lives in such a manner as to be taken seriously by others. (Titus 2:2)
- **“Not double-tongued”** → Consistent in word, honest, dependable.
  - Does not give one version of the story to one person and a different one to another.
  - Honest and forthright.
- **“Not given to much wine”** → not addicted to much wine;
  - Does not speak to an allowable level of alcohol consumption. (I Pet. 4:3)
  - Is not a drunkard.
- **“Not greedy of filthy lucre”** → is not a covetous person, money and material things are not the first priority. (Titus 1:7; I Tim. 6:9-10; I Pet. 5:2)
  - Will not seek to attain material things by unscrupulous means.
- **“Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience”** → Knows, is committed and lives the gospel. (Eph. 3:3-5,9)
  - Will not be easily swayed by false teaching.
  - Has a clear conscience that comes from consistent obedience.
- **“Let these also first be proved”** → by their lives these have passed tests, have proven themselves.
  - To test, examine, prove... (I Thess. 5:21)
  - Are seen as those who are already workers in the kingdom of God. Shown a willingness to work.
- **“Let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless”**
  - “then let them serve as deacons if they are found blameless.”
  - Not perfect in an absolute sense.. No one would be qualified.
  - Beyond reproach. Earnestly endeavors to conform manner of life with God’s word.
- **“Even so must their wives be...”**
  - Grave → respectable; honorable character
  - Not slanderers → gossips, whisperers
  - Sober → temperate, self-control
  - Faithful in all things → wife, mother, member of the Lord’s body
- **“The husband of one wife”** → a scripturally married man
  - One is more than zero and less than two.
  - Devoted to his one wife, not a “womanizer”.
- **“Ruling their children and their own houses well”** → Good managers of their children and their own households.
  - The spiritual leader in his home
  - Bringing up children in nurture and admonition of the Lord. (Eph. 6:4)
- **“For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.”**